Termination of bookstall contract

1609. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1983 the DRM/New Delhi had proposed termination of bookstall contract of M/s Gulab Singh and Sons at New Delhi station on account of unsatisfactory services; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that during the same period nine station bookstall contracts were terminated due to unsatisfactory service and the same bookstalls are still to be allotted to unemployed graduates, if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHR A B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, But in view of the *status quo* orders passed by Delhi High Court, fresh awards of bookstall contracts could not materialise. The case is *sub-judice*.

Checking of self-medication

1610. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to check self-medication indulged by the people which is induced by the advertisements of some multinational companies; and

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken so far in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI): (a) and (b) The following measures have been taken to check self-medication by way of regulating advertisements relating to drugs under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 and regulating sales of patent and psychotropic drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules:—

1. Section 4 of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 prohibits the misleading advertisements relating to drugs, which reads as under:

"Subject to the provisions of this Act, no person shall take part in the publication of any advertisement relating to a drug if the advertisement contains any matter which—

(i) directly or indirectly gives a false impression regarding the true character of the drug; or

(ii) makes a false claim for drug; or

(iii) is otherwise false or misleading in any material particular.

2. Section 3 of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, prohibits the publication of any advertisement referring to any drug in terms which suggest or are calculated to lead to the use of that drug, *interalia* for the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of any disease, disorder or condition specified in the Schedule to the Act.

3. Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules the sale of patent drugs as well as psychotropic substances are required to be made only against a prescription of a Registered Medical Practitioner.

Leprosy control in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

1611. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every fourth leper in the world is an Indian and the two worst affected States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are miserably lagging behind in the matter of National Leprosy Control Programme;

(b) whether it is a fact that for conducting researches on the causative organism of leprosy, Armadillo, a south American mammal; would be required; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to regularise its import on a permanent basis?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUDBHEN M. JOSHI): (a) The estimated number of leprosy patients in the country is 4 million which is about 1/4th of the total number of patients in the world. It is not a fact that the State of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are lagging behind in the implementation of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme.

(b) and (c) Armadillo is required for research in leprosy on a selective basis to multiply laprae germs. It is not indispensable for research as lepra germs can also be taken from germ bank.

Armadillo were imported by CJIL, Agra and SLRTC, Karigiri, North Arcot.

Goitre control through iodized salt

1612. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about 40 million Indians are affected with endemic Goitre;

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken so far to check it;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that insufficient production of iodized salt, iodized sodium chloride and iodized oil injection and other fortifications, is making it difficult for the National Goitre Control Programme to succeed; and

(d) if so, what is the number of iodization plants that Government propose to instal during the remaining period of the Sixth Five Year Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI): (a) to (d) It is estimated that nearly 40 million people are suffering from Goitre. To tackle the disease, the National Goitre Control Programme is in operation in the endemic areas with focus on the supply of iodised salt for human consumption.

Though iodized sodium chloride, iodized injection etc. are available, the strategy of iodisation of salt has been found to be cheapest and acceptable under the National Goitre Control Programme. 12 iodisation plants are already functioning in the country. In dization Plants are also expected to be installed in Himachal Pradesh during current year.

In order to augment the production of iodized salt, State Governments/ U.T. Administrations have been advised to encourage commercial production of iodized salt both in the Public and Private Sectors.

C.G.H.S. pharmacists

1613. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2476 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th December, 1983, and state:

(a) the details of recommendations made by the Committee constituted to look into the grievances of C.G.H.S. pharmacists, the date of submission of its report to Government and the recommendations implemented since then; and

(b) if the recommendations have not been implemented, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUD BEN M. JOSHI): (a) and (b) The Committee which was constituted to look into the grievances of C.G.H.S. pharmacists submitted its report on 2-5-1979